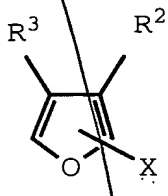
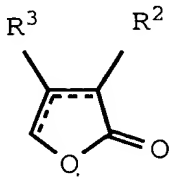
-- 35. A compound of a formula selected from




and




;

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wherein X is H or hydroxyl;

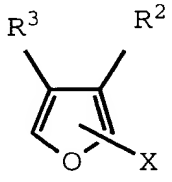
wherein $R^2$ is a substituent selected from pyridyl, and aryl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with a radical selected from halo, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkylthio, lower alkylsulfinyl, lower alkylsulfonyl, nitro, amino, lower alkylamino, sulfamyl and lower alkylsulfonylamino; and

wherein $R^3$ is a substituent selected from pyridyl, and aryl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with a radical selected from halo, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkylthio, lower alkylsulfinyl, lower alkylsulfonyl, nitro, amino, lower alkylamino, amide, lower alkylsulfonylamino and sulfamyl;

provided that at least one of said $R^2$ and $R^3$ substituents is substituted with lower alkylsulfonyl or sulfamyl;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof. --

-- 36. A compound of the formula




wherein X is H or hydroxyl;

wherein $R^2$ is a substituent selected from pyridyl, and aryl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with a radical selected from halo, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy,

lower alkylthio, lower alkylsulfinyl, lower alkylsulfonyl, nitro, amino, lower alkylamino, sulfamyl and lower alkylsulfonylamino; and

wherein $R^3$ is a substituent selected from pyridyl, and aryl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with a radical selected from halo, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkylthio, lower alkylsulfinyl, lower alkylsulfonyl, nitro, amino, lower alkylamino, amide, lower alkylsulfonylamino and sulfamyl;

provided that at least one of said $R^2$ and $R^3$ substituents is substituted with lower alkylsulfonyl or sulfamyl;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof. --

-- 37. Compound of Claim 36 wherein X is H or hydroxyl; wherein $R^2$ is a substituent selected from pyridyl, naphthyl and phenyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with a radical selected from halo, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkylthio, lower alkylsulfinyl, lower alkylsulfonyl, nitro, amino, lower alkylamino, sulfamyl and lower alkylsulfonylamino; and

wherein $R^3$ is a substituent selected from pyridyl, naphthyl and phenyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with a radical selected from halo, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkylthio, lower alkylsulfinyl, lower alkylsulfonyl, nitro, amino, lower alkylamino, amide, lower alkylsulfonylamino and sulfamyl; or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof. --

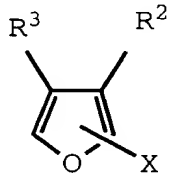
-- 38. Compound of Claim 37 wherein X is H or hydroxyl; wherein $R^2$ is phenyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with a radical selected from fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, *tert*-butyl, methoxy, ethoxy, butoxy, methylthio, methylsulfinyl, methylsulfonyl, nitro, amino, methylamino, and sulfamyl; and wherein $R^3$ is phenyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with a radical selected from fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, *tert*-butyl, methoxy, ethoxy,

butoxy, methylthio, methylsulfinyl, methylsulfonyl, nitro, amino, methylamino, and sulfamyl; or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof. --

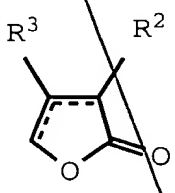
-- 39. Compound of Claim 38 wherein X is H or hydroxyl; wherein $R^2$ is phenyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with a radical selected from fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, *tert*-butyl, methoxy, ethoxy, butoxy, methylsulfonyl, and sulfamyl; and wherein $R^3$ is phenyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with a radical selected from fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, *tert*-butyl, methoxy, ethoxy, butoxy, methylsulfonyl, and sulfamyl; or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof. --

-- 40. Compound of Claim 39 which is 3-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-(methylsulfonylphenyl)furan, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof. --

-- 41. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically-effective amount of an antiinflammatory compound, said compound selected from a compound of the formulas



and

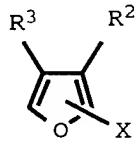


;

wherein X is H or hydroxyl; wherein each of $R^2$ and $R^3$ is a substituent independently selected from aryl and heteroaryl, wherein each of said $R^2$ and $R^3$ substituents is optionally substituted at a substitutable position with a radical selected from halo, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkylthio, lower alkylsulfinyl, lower alkylsulfonyl, nitro, amino, lower alkylamino, sulfamyl and lower

alkylsulfonylamino; provided that at least one of said $R^2$ and $R^3$ substituents is substituted with lower alkylsulfonyl or sulfamyl; or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof. --

-- 42. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically-effective amount of an antiinflammatory compound, said compound selected from a compound of the formula




wherein X is H or hydroxyl;

wherein $R^2$ is a substituent selected from pyridyl, and aryl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with a radical selected from halo, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkylthio, lower alkylsulfinyl, lower alkylsulfonyl, nitro, amino, lower alkylamino, sulfamyl and lower alkylsulfonylamino; and

wherein $R^3$ is a substituent selected from pyridyl, and aryl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with a radical selected from halo, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkylthio, lower alkylsulfinyl, lower alkylsulfonyl, nitro, amino, lower alkylamino, amide, lower alkylsulfonylamino and sulfamyl;

provided that at least one of said $R^2$ and $R^3$ substituents is substituted with lower alkylsulfonyl or sulfamyl;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof. --

-- 43. The composition of Claim 42 wherein X is H, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, or hydroxyl; wherein $R^2$ is a substituent selected from pyridyl, naphthyl and phenyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with a radical selected from halo, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkylthio, lower alkylsulfinyl, lower alkylsulfonyl, nitro, amino, lower alkylamino, sulfamyl and lower alkylsulfonylamino; and

wherein $R^3$ is a substituent selected from pyridyl, naphthyl and phenyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with a radical selected from halo, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkylthio, lower alkylsulfinyl, lower alkylsulfonyl, nitro, amino, lower alkylamino, amide, lower alkylsulfonylamino and sulfamyl; or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof. --

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-- 44. The composition of Claim 43 wherein X is H or hydroxyl; wherein $R^2$ is phenyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with a radical selected from fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, *tert*-butyl, methoxy, ethoxy, butoxy, methylthio, methylsulfinyl, methylsulfonyl, nitro, amino, methylamino, and sulfamyl; and wherein $R^3$ is phenyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with a radical selected from fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, *tert*-butyl, methoxy, ethoxy, butoxy, methylthio, methylsulfinyl, methylsulfonyl, nitro, amino, methylamino, and sulfamyl; or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof. --

-- 45. The composition of Claim 44 wherein X is H or hydroxyl; wherein $R^2$ is phenyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with a radical selected from fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, *tert*-butyl, methoxy, ethoxy, butoxy, methylsulfonyl, and sulfamyl; and wherein $R^3$ is phenyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with a radical selected from fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, *tert*-butyl, methoxy, ethoxy, butoxy, methylsulfonyl, and sulfamyl; or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof. --

-- 46. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 42 wherein said compound is 3-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-(methylsulfonylphenyl)furan, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof. --